

Historic American Engineering Record

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AMMUNITION DEMOLITION BLDG. - TAIL FIN STORAGE &
Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Building 1611) ASSEMBLY HAER No. CO-21-DI
2,750 feet south of 9th Avenue;
3,480 feet east of D Street
Commerce City
Adams County
Colorado

Documentation: 2 exterior photos (1995)
3 interior photos (1995)
2 photographic copies of photographs (ca. 1975)

Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, photographer, February 1995

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- CO-21-DI-1 EAST AND SOUTH SIDES OF BUILDING 1611. VIEW TO NORTHWEST.
- CO-21-DI-2 NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF BUILDING 1611. VIEW TO SOUTHWEST.
- CO-21-DI-3 INTERIOR OF BUILDING 1611. VIEW TO SOUTH.
- CO-21-DI-4 INTERIOR DETAIL OF CONTROL PANEL IN BUILDING 1611. VIEW TO NORTHWEST.
- CO-21-DI-5 INTERIOR DETAIL OF CONTROL PANEL IN BUILDING 1611. VIEW TO NORTH.
- CO-21-DI-6 Photocopy of photograph, U.S. Army, ca. 1955 (original print located at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Commerce City, Colorado). AERIAL VIEW OF BUILDING 1611. VIEW TO NORTHEAST. "THIS IS THE HONEST JOHN WARHEAD DEMILITARIZATION PLANT. THE DEMILITARIZATION PROCESS CONSISTS OF STRIPPING AND OPENING THE WARHEAD MANUALLY AND DOWNLOADING THE M139 BOMBLETS ONTO A CONVEYOR WHICH CARRIES THEM THROUGH A PUNCH, DRAIN AND RINSE MACHINE INTO A ROTARY RETORT DEACTIVATION FURNACE WHERE THE BURSTER IS BURNED. THE BOMBLET SHELLS, WHICH ARE ALUMINUM, ARE THEN CONVEYED TO A DECONTAMINATION FURNACE WHERE THEY ARE MELTED AND CAST INTO INGOTS. THE GB, WHICH IS COLLECTED IN THE PUNCH, DRAIN AND RINSE MACHINE, IS CONDUCTED TO A STORAGE TANK AND, ULTIMATELY, IS NEUTRALIZED WITH CAUSTIC. THE RESULTING BRINES ARE SPRAY DRYED [SIC]. THE INERT PARTS OF THE WARHEAD ARE PLACED ON A CONVEYOR, MOVED THROUGH AN AIRLOCK TO THE DECONTAMINATION FURNACE ROOM AND MANUALLY LOADED INTO THE FURNACE. THE ALUMINUM IS MELTED AND CAST INTO INGOTS."

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Photocopy of photograph, U.S. Army, ca. 1955 (original print located at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Commerce City, Colorado). INTERIOR OF BUILDING 1611. "THE M139 BOMBLETS ARE MANUALLY DOWNLOADED FROM THE WARHEAD SECTION ONTO THE CONVEYORS, EQUIPPED WITH FIXTURES TO POSITION THE BOMBLETS FOR THE SUBSEQUENT PUNCH, DRAIN AND RINSE OPERATIONS."